(c) if so, the funds made available to Gujarat Government as on 30th November, 1995 and proposed to be made available during the rest of the period of its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b): Yes, Sir.

(c) Funds aggregating to Rs. 155.20 crores has been spent as reported for the entire project in question upto 20th November, 1995. However, the remaining funds would be made available in a phased manner keeping in view *inter-alia* availability of resources under the Central Sector Road programme.

**Requirement of Cooking Gas in Hill Districts of up**

2466. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any survey about the requirement of cooking fuel being used by the people in the eight hill districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether any such survey/ study will be made to assess the requirement of cooking fuel of the people of these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (c): Oil Companies have been making a continuous assessment of the requirement of LPG in the 8 Hill Districts of Uttar Pradesh. Based on the assessment made as above, all the major places in these districts have been covered for marketing of LPG by opening of LPG distributorships and extension points, in line with the policy for avoiding deforestation in hilly areas.

The Oil Companies are under instructions to clear the entire waiting list (as on 1.4.1995) in areas above 4500 ft. altitude during 1995-96 50% of the waiting list (as on 1.4.1995) in areas between 2000 to 4500 ft. during 1995-96 and the remaining 50% during 1996-97.

It has now been decided to release LPG connections on demand to the consumers from 1.1.1996 for the markets above 4500 ft. altitude and from 1.4.1996 at all places at an altitude beyond 2000 ft.

**Amendment in Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and National Forestry Policy, 1988**

2467. SMT. KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to states:

(a) whether Government have decided to amend the Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980 and National Forest Policy, 1988 for making available forest land to industries/ private organisations for undertaking plantation and for other activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) A proposal for "Involvement of Industries in Afforestation of Degraded Forest land" which incorporates certain modifications in the National Forest Policy, 1988 has been projected to the Deptt. by Paper and Pulp Industry for consideration. However, no amendment has been proposed to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Some State Govts. also had approached the Central Government with suggestions to tap the resources of industries to augment the current afforestation efforts especially in view of the increasing threat of encroachment upon large quantum of degraded forest land in the country, and the need to afforest it urgently in order